

TWO VERY SIMPLE MICROTOMES.

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Nothing especially novel in principle is claimed for these instruments, but it is believed that they are worthy of your attention as putting into convenient and commercial shape well-known and useful principles at the lowest cost. It is the writer's experience that the high cost of nearly all aids to section-cutting deters very many students from obtaining them. Such need not be the case with these, which hardly, indeed, rise to the dignity of instruments of precision, but which will doubtless be found a real aid to good work.

First—The “Handy” has a V-shaped groove for the paraffin-imbedded or the naturally hard object, the latter being moved forward by a finely cut screw, the object being held in place by the thumb; there is a flat expansion at the end for the razor, which should preferably be flat-ground, though the ordinary shaving razor will do good work, especially if it is not what is known as full concave ground. (See illustration, Fig. 1.)

Second—Dr. Wetherill's application of the well-known rivet principle to a hand microtome. It is made of hard wood, with a horizontal portion as a guide for the sweep of the razor and an incline upon which slides the rider or object-carrier, to which the paraffin-imbedded object is attached by melting. That is all. In the case of a naturally firm object the rider may, indeed, be dispensed with; in either case the object is moved up the incline by the thumb of the hand holding the microtome. (See illustration, Fig. 2.)

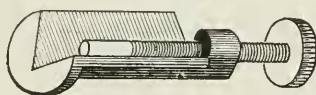
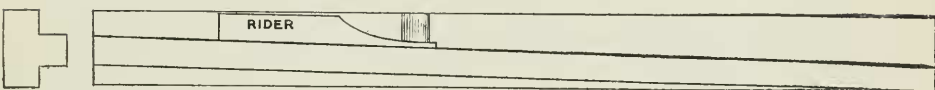


Fig. 1.



End Section.

Elevation.

Fig. 2.